

This book is a welcome addition to the literature on marine bivalves and sets a high standard for the study of mollusks in relation to their environment. — K. J. BOSS

HABE, TADASHIGE. 1971. *Shells of Japan*. Translated by T. I. Elliot. Hoikusha Publishing Co., Ltd. 139 pp., 50 colored and black and white plates, many figures.

This small but informative book gives the amateur shell collector an insight into what is going on and what went on in the Japanese shell world. Dr. Habe offers a bit of historical and general background as well as some scientific data. Although mostly marine mollusks are treated, he does have a small section of land forms and a slightly larger portion on freshwater molluscan fauna. However, due to the size of the book he could not provide any great detail. Further, because of the translation, there are unfortunately some spelling errors and mistakes in the plates (p. 58).

The lack of an alphabetic species index is a drawback to the general user for one cannot pinpoint a particular species described in the text without going through the complete plate captions. However, the colored plates are superb, the specimens photographed against artistic backgrounds.

Dr. Habe includes in this delightful little book information on industrial uses, the edibility of mollusks, and how they have been and are used in the art of everyday life of the Japanese.

Practically produced for the field, this book easily slips into the pocket and has a waterproof cover. The illustrations make it ideal for quick identification and it is a good publication for professional and amateur alike.

— M. S. BELLE